

**Application No. 09/257,902 (Zlotkin)**  
**Amendment dated December 8, 2003**  
**Reply to Action of August 7, 2003**

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## **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 to 50 (cancelled)

51. (currently amended) An article of manufacture consisting essentially of:

(a) a packaging material; and

(b) a composition contained within said packaging material, wherein the composition consists essentially of that formed upon an admixture of microencapsulated iron granules in combination with an excipient, and optionally, one or more of a bioavailable form of an additional micronutrient.

52. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the composition consists essentially of: an admixture of microencapsulated iron granules in combination with the excipient, and one or more of a bioavailable form of a compound selected from zinc, vitamin A, iodine and ascorbic acid.

53. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the excipient is an edible oil in hydrogenated form.

54. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the iron granules are no more than about 850 microns in diameter.

55. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the iron granules are encapsulated with a coating, said coating being prepared from a compound selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, ethyl cellulose, hydrogenated soy bean oil and mixtures thereof.

56. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the iron granules are encapsulated with a coating selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, ethyl cellulose, hydrogenated soy bean oil and mixtures thereof, and the excipient is an edible oil in hydrogenated form.

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57. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the composition contains one or more of a bioavailable form of an additional micronutrient.

58. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein the composition contains one or more of a bioavailable form of a compound selected from zinc, vitamin A, iodine and ascorbic acid.

59. (currently amended) An article of manufacture consisting essentially of:

- (a) a packaging material; and
- (b) a composition contained within said packaging material, wherein said composition consists essentially of that formed upon an admixture of a single daily dose of a therapeutically effective amount of elemental iron as microencapsulated iron granules in combination with an excipient, and optionally, one or more of a bioavailable form of an additional micronutrient.

60. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59 wherein the packaging material is in the form of a sachet.

61. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the composition consists essentially of: an admixture of microencapsulated iron granules in combination with the excipient, and one or more of a bioavailable form of a compound selected from zinc, vitamin A, iodine and ascorbic acid.

62. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the excipient is an edible oil in hydrogenated form.

63. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the iron granules are no more than about 850 microns in diameter.

64. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the iron granules are encapsulated with a coating, said coating being prepared from a compound selected

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from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, ethyl cellulose, hydrogenated soy bean oil and mixtures thereof.

65. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the iron granules are encapsulated with a coating selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, ethyl cellulose, hydrogenated soy bean oil and mixtures thereof; and the excipient is an edible oil in hydrogenated form.

66. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the composition contains one or more of a bioavailable form of an additional micronutrient.

67. (previously added) An article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein the composition contains one or more of a bioavailable form of a compound selected from zinc, vitamin A, iodine and ascorbic acid.

68. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 51, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

69. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 52, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

70. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

71. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

72. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 60, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

73. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

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74. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.

75. (new) An article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein said excipient is a lipid-based excipient.